

By Carolyn DeMarco  
staff writer

Organizations that match singles for dating continue to flourish despite, and even because of, the fear of AIDS.

Times have changed, said Richard Geryan, president of Interactions, a "dating introduction club." The Southfield-based club has been around for 24 years and is the oldest and largest in the Midwest.

"Dating services began in the early '70s as trendy little things," Geryan said, "when everybody wanted to 'relate,' to 'communicate.'"

By 1970 all things were possible. Everybody was liberated. The traditional ways had broken down.

It was fun, sexual liberation and a lot of divorces, he said, and the males led the way.

"In the late '70s it was discovered that what was good for the geese was good for the gander. And guys discovered they wanted more mature women. Then the recession hit. People could no longer afford to fool around. They wanted to settle down."

THE TREND of finding one person and settling down continues into the late '80s, Geryan said.

"We see a marriage a week. That's doubled in the last couple of years. The '60s mentality has played itself out."

Part of the reason, he said, is economics.

"People need two paychecks to survive," he said. "But a large part of that trend, he said, is a need to settle down, to feel safe."

In the 30-49 year age group, Geryan said, "Everyone is bringing up AIDS. I'd say 60 percent of them mention it. It began about a year ago. We were hearing concerns about herpes since '82 or '83, but they're much more concerned now."

"But the reality of the situation is, as horrible as it is, it isn't going to affect 99 percent of the people we see. Physicians tell me it's not the high-risk people who ask the questions."

Interactions last year experienced a 30 percent increase in business over 1985 and for the first quarter of 1987, Geryan said.

"We're not only keeping up, we're even higher. AIDS has given people a reason for settling down."

DON MISSETT, publisher of the five-year-old "Sincere Singles," a monthly brochure of classified dating ads for yuppies, confirms that trend of people looking for a lasting, stable relationship.

"There's an absolute connection with herpes and AIDS. People are looking for solid, permanent relationships. They don't want to find someone in a bar. They're willing to try a blind date through us."

"People talk about it all the time. They'll say a lot on the phone." Some concerns have been voiced by people seeking married people to date, thinking their odds of

# DATING

## AIDS changes swingin' scene



Finding one person and settling has become the trend of the late '80s, according to local dating services. The fear of AIDS has taken

some edge off the sexual liberation of the '70s.

having a disease are considerably lower. "We tell them we have no married associates."

Sincere Singles maintains a mailing list of subscribers, updated constantly. The list is composed of screened professional men and women.

"In the last 1½ years that's grown from 12,900 to 18,109," Missett said.

ATTENDANCE AT area dances like those sponsored by Birmingham Bloomfield Troy Singles has never been higher, said Dick Tobin, the group's organizer.

"It's still the best way to meet people."

AIDS has been the prime topic of discussion at recent dances, Tobin said. "But the people who come here aren't the type to get AIDS." A concern about AIDS has led to a number of marriages among dance regulars, he said.

AT LEAST one organization has cropped up because of the threat of AIDS. Peace of Mind in West Bloomfield bills itself as "a service organization focusing on Health Care Planning intermingled with leisure-time entertainment concerns."

The organization is aimed at singles and charges \$340 annually to arrange a test for AIDS. It provides those who test negative with a laminated identification card and lapel pin. The club is not a dating service, but, said the firm's marketing consultant Dennis Evans, it places "to identify clubs which welcome our members."

While AIDS may be the single most important concern of many dating singles, Joe Caruthers, vice president of International Dating Service of Lathrup Village for 15 years, has noticed no difference in the concerns of his clients.

"They are looking for monogamous, meaningful relationships. That was true 15 years ago and it's true today. That's harder to find today," he said.

Increased mobility, more diverse life styles have contributed, Caruthers said, in complicating their lives. What people are seeking, he said jokingly, is "a way to match complementary neuroses so they don't have to change."

The most noticeable trend, Caruthers said, was that "society accepts what we (dating services) do. We're more viable as an alternative. The divorce rate shows that people are not doing well on their own in picking a mate."

Geryan of Interactions agreed that dating services are finally recognized as respectable.

"It's like an executive search. It's the same kind of thing. It appeals to busy people. We can do a better job than they can do themselves. Everybody knows what they don't want, but they don't always know what they do want. ... If they've ever known a loving relationship, they want that again. Swinging singles have gone by the wayside."

# Romping through space

By Chuck Moss  
special writer

From Birmingham to black holes and the infinity of space and time, from music to mathematics, might seem like a major leap but to one young author it's all in a day's work. Barry Boone, creator of the newly published science fiction book "Beethoven's Fifth" carens through disciplines like his characters romp around new universes.

"It was just fun to write," Boone says of his newly published work. "I had a lot of fun with it."

"Beethoven's Fifth" (Claycomb Press, 224 pages, \$9.95) is a work of space fantasy. If the title sounds familiar, be warned: the "Fifth" is a mathematical formula, not a symphony, and Beethoven is "Michael," not "Ludwig Van."

Say what? "Inside a black hole, time and space may reverse. It's a short step to invent a machine that will take you through it. Then, you can use the idea to enter a different universe. When you have the freedom to go to any universe at all," Boone smiles, "Well, you can have a lot of fun with that."

"FUN?" ACTUALLY, "Beethoven's Fifth" is a joyous and dizzy romp through time and space and as many other dimensions you can imagine. The tale of Jonathan Ford, a far-futuristic minstrel, "Fifth" roams realities seeking adventure, salvation, love and a coin collection. Each planet, each universe, is a lyrical analog of our own, inhabited by characters from literature, music and Boone's own fertile imagination. Of course, each alternate makes a trenchant comment on here-and-now reality.

"That's why I like science fiction."

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You can explore a lot more than in ordinary fiction. Obviously my basic concept is what's going on in our own world: imagination, philosophy, music, harmony. Look at the alternate reality and you can see our own."

Who is this guy who talks so casually of universes and alternate realities? Barry Boone is a dark-haired, slight, well-knit Long Island native whose appearance is, well, disarmingly normal. His North Woodward apartment is typical young-20s and the only sign of deviation is a large inflatable globe hung from the ceiling.

In real life, Boone designs computer manufacturing systems for that paragon of militant normality, EDS. He speaks easily and articulately, with a relaxed, blue-jeaned confidence, hands fluidly illustrating a random point. But whether you sit down with this author or his book, be prepared to stretch your mind.

"I JUST started with the idea from a physics lecture, and from there it just evolved, just came together," Boone smiles again. "I could get into all kinds of things."

Indeed. But how did Boone get to Birmingham, and how does a designer get to the stars?

"Mathematics," Boone says matter-of-factly. "I studied math in college, then EDS offered me a job applying mathematics. I got the idea for the book, and just wrote it."

Short, simple, logical. But dull? Think again. If math seems eye-glazing, five minutes with Boone dispels that notion.

"I think there's a lot of similarity between mathematics and the stuff in my book. Math is alive, it's a thing of clarity and truth."

This ability to see the mundane as poetry is what invests Boone's work

with magic. Whether it's scientific philosophy or daydreams or artificial intelligence, Barry Boone seems to see a different and graceful dimension. Take Birmingham.

"WHAT DO I like about Birmingham?" he muses. "Well, you can walk out your door, and there's always stuff happening. It's a nice place to hang out, there's good restaurants, people out — you know," he leans back and thinks, "my books are kind of influenced by where I live."

"Fifth," here, was influenced by New York; all those fatal bus happenings. It's like a painting by Jackson Pollock, energy, movement. Now, here in the Midwest things are a little slower and you get more contemplative, more textured, layers on layers. Like a painting by Rubens."

From Birmingham to high art to higher dimensions, author Barry Boone figures it's only a leap of the mind. The real adventure is seeing what's already there.



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JERRY ZOLYNSKY/staff photographer

Birmingham science fiction writer Barry Boone takes a fun-filled trip through time and space in his first book, "Beethoven's Fifth."

## Beginner tries juggling

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You must resist the temptation to pass the second ball sideways. You'll want to toss one ball in the air and then hand the second ball over — it seems to be instinct for beginning jugglers. However, that isn't juggling, so don't let that bad habit get started.

When practicing with two balls, be sure to start with your right hand half the time and with your left hand half the time. This is necessary because it's important to be ambidextrous when you juggle, according to Dunn.

This third step is the hardest and must be practiced the longest, Dunn told me. Once it is mastered, it won't be hard to add the third ball.

THE FINAL STEP is to add a third ball and begin tossing all three in a crossing pattern in your perfect arc, developing a rhythm as you toss and catch the balls. That is juggling.

I am here to say that it is possible to learn to juggle using this method. My juggling wasn't pretty, and it still isn't pretty, but it's juggling. Some quick tips for beginning jugglers:

● If you're tossing the ball too far out in front of you, Dunn suggests standing close to a wall. This forces you to throw straight up rather than out. (It also makes you look like the class clown if you're in a beginners workshop.)

● When you first add a third ball, catch just two of them, allowing the

third one to drop somewhere safe, such as a bed, according to Don Nelson of Lincoln Park. He said this helped him learn because he was able to get a feel for the rhythm of juggling but he didn't have to catch the third ball or continue tossing, which turned out to be the hardest for me.

If you want to try juggling at home, do juggle with objects that don't have a lot of bounce in them. Bean bags are recommended, or tennis balls that have been filled with sand or popcorn. This makes them heavier, and they won't jump around on you.

Paul Kyrie of Ann Arbor suggests beginning jugglers first participate in workshops such as those organized periodically by the Jugglers of Ann Arbor and then attend weekly club meetings to perfect the skill. The clubs aren't set up to teach people but rather to develop the skills that they've already learned.

"You won't master it at a workshop — you've got to go home and practice," Kyrie said, "but if you put a little bit of effort into it, you'll have no problem."

He said juggling doesn't take any particular skill.

"It all comes through hard work and practice," Kyrie said. "The only special talent you need is the desire to practice and the love of doing it."

And by the way, it really is exercise, as my breathlessness after just a few minutes of practice showed.